



## OFFICE OF GOVERNOR MARK DAYTON

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# Substance Abuse Prevention

## Providing Support to Reduce Addiction and Improve Health

**Substance abuse and addiction inflict a devastating human and financial toll on Minnesota. Last fall, the Dayton Administration announced a statewide substance abuse prevention strategy to address the rising costs and human tragedy caused by addiction. The governor's budget would make important investments to support the multi-agency substance abuse prevention effort, and improve people's lives.**

» **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT).** Doctors and other primary care providers are in a unique position to identify and intervene on substance abuse issues with their patients. The governor's budget invests \$600,000 to train doctors to identify people with risky drug or alcohol behaviors, and help those individuals to access necessary care and services.

» **Mental Health Care in Schools.** Identifying and intervening early in substance abuse is one of the most effective prevention strategies. For young people, school is often the place where signs of substance abuse show up first. The governor's budget invests \$7.4 million to expand these grants, doubling the number of Minnesota schools that can offer mental health services to students while they are at school. An estimated 13,900 students would gain access by 2017.

» **Reducing Tobacco Use.** There are few legal substances more dangerous than tobacco. Health costs related to tobacco use total more than \$2.8 billion every year. The governor recommends increasing the cigarette tax by 94 cents per pack, which would save \$10 billion in health care costs and prevent nearly 26,000 kids from smoking.

» **Making Oversight of Methadone Clinics Stronger.** The increase use and abuse of heroin and prescription drugs has led to an increase in methadone and other medically-assisted therapies. These are medically recognized treatments, but strong oversight must exist to ensure they are being delivered appropriately. The governor proposes increasing the effectiveness oversight of these treatments through better licensing and regulation of methadone clinics.

» **Strengthening the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP).** The governor proposes changes to the prescription monitoring program to strengthen reporting of drugs with a high propensity for abuse. These changes will enable better tracking of prescription drugs and make the PMP a more effective reference tool for doctors to prevent patients from improperly obtaining drugs.

» **Supporting the state's criminal toxicology lab.** The rise in synthetic drugs and their abuse has led to increased need for scientists to analyze more complex and varied substances. The governor's budget invests \$400,000 for four additional BCA forensic lab scientists (2 drug chemists and 2 toxicologists).

» **Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).** The Governor recommends \$40 million to implement strategies that support healthier choices through the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP). SHIP will focus on four everyday behaviors: lack of exercise, poor nutrition, tobacco use, and excessive alcohol consumption.